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MAINE STATE PLANNING OFFICE
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AUGUSTA, ME 04333

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RIGHT-OF-WAY DISCOVERY GRANTS

The Maine Coastal Program wishes to assist coastal communities with protection of public access to the ocean shore. Municipalities, with help from land trusts, conservation commissions, historical societies, and others wishing to research forgotten or overlooked rights-of-way may apply to the Maine Coastal Program for a **2007 Right-of-Way Discovery Grant** to help defray expenses.

Applicants, or their researchers, should document competence in deed research, and applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment and ability to follow through as necessary to secure for the future any rediscovered public rights-of-way.

Applications must be received by the Maine Coastal Program on or before October 9, 2006. Individual grants may not exceed \$2500.00. Application instructions, especially project description details, are provided on the back side of this notice.

Discovery Grants are intended to help communities find and assert public rights-of-way to the Maine coast that are in danger of being lost by the passing of generations and changing land ownership patterns. The local effort to rediscover existing but uncertain, unused or forgotten legal rights of access to the shore usually involves inventorying possible access points, researching records to verify public rights, and then taking steps to assert and safeguard these public access rights. In many instances traditional rights-of-way for hunting and fishing access to the coast are being lost.

The Maine Coastal Program expects to provide **Discovery Grant** recipients with technical support in addition to funding. Grant awards will be announced by **October 27, 2006**. All research funded by the **2007** grant awards must be completed by **June 30, 2007**.

A handbook on how to conduct rights-of-way research is available free of charge. For copies of the handbook, or for more information, please call Jim Connors at the Maine State Planning Office (287-8938) or contact him via email at Jim.Connors@maine.gov. The handbook can also be downloaded at www.state.me.us/spo/mcp/downloads/row_discovery_grant/ROW%20handbook.pdf

2007 Right-of-Way Discovery Grants

How to Apply

The Maine Coastal Program is pleased to offer 2007 Right-of-Way Discovery Grants. Please refer to the announcement (on the front side) for a description of the purpose of these grants. This page outlines the application process. To make your proposal as strong as possible please provide all of the information requested below. **All applications are due on or before October 9, 2006.**

1. Your project description needs to address the following questions. Two or three pages should suffice.

- What locations do you intend to research? Please include maps, photographs, and/or other descriptive materials.
- Why are these locations important? Who is likely to benefit if your research is successful?
- Have abutting and/or affected property owners been notified? Are they aware that a public right-of-way might exist? Have you posted a public notice of your application? Please include copies of letters of notification and public notices.
- Are your researchers experienced in deed research?
- What follow-up steps do you plan to take to secure for the future of any rights-of-way identified by your research? Do you foresee any obstacles to securing these rights-of-way?

2. Please provide a list of proposed research activities, estimated expenses and time schedule for your project.

3. Applicants who are not municipalities must include letters of endorsement from each of the municipalities where research sites are located. Additional letters from groups or individuals with a stake in the particular sites to be researched, such as fishermen or other traditional users, will strengthen the application.

Send your completed application to:

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Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0038

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